# Estimates of Fish Populations in Two Northeastern North Carolina Swamp Streams 

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#### Abstract

Fish populations were sampled in two northeastern North Carolina swamp streams, Duke and Hoggard Mill Creek, from May through August 1972. Water conditions permitted partitioning the streams into 0.4 km sections with nets, and estimating the abundances of 30 species in randomly chosen areas using the Petersen method. Some biomass estimates were also made. Population estimates in Duke Swamp varied from 6630 to 33,734 fish per surface hectare. In Hoggard Mill Creek estimated numbers ranged from 17,656 to 103,891 fish per surface hectare. Large variations were found in numbers of fish among sections of stream, but these variations were not uniform from species to species. Biomass estimates ranged from 195 kg to 1607 kg of fish per surface hectare for the two streams.


## INTRODUCTION

Swamp streams are generally defined as streams located in lowland areas which flood periodically, inundating the vegetated flood plain for extended periods during the year. These areas are usually characterized by the presence of bald cypress, Taxodium distichum, and tupelo gum, Nyssa aquatica. The plant communities in these systems were described in detail by Wells (1928), Beaven and Oosting (1939), and Hall and Penfound (1943). Although swamp stream ecosystems are known to have diverse communities (Viosca 1928, Wharton 1970), few studies have been conducted regarding the abundance of their components.

Fish populations in two swamp streams were examined in this study from May through August 1972, in an effort to determine their composition and magnitude. Attempts were made to estimate the numerical abundance, and in some cases the biomass, of each species.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The Study Area
Duke Swamp and Hoggard Mill Creek are swamp streams in Northeastern North Carolina (Fig. 1). Timber has been logged along both

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Fig. 1. Maps of Duke Swamp (upper left) and Hoggard Mill Creek (lower right) study areas, showing sampling sections.
streams but most areas have returned to the gum-cypress dominant forest type. In a few recently logged areas dense stands of aquatic vegetation and dense shrub layer have developed.

Approximately 13.7 stream km of Duke Swamp, a tributary to Lassiter Swamp and the Chowan River in eastern Gates County, were designated the Duke Swamp study area (Fig. 1). Hoggard Mill Creek, tributary to

Table 1. Fishes collected in Duke Swamp and Hoggard Mill Creek, May 1972 through August 1972 ( $\mathrm{P}=$ Present). Names from Bailey et al. (1970).

| Species | Duke Swamp | Hoggard Mill Creek |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Bowfin, Amia calva | P | P |
| American eel, Anguilla rostrata | P | P |
| Eastern mudminnow, Umbra pygmaea | P | P |
| Redfin pickerel, Esox americanus americanus | P | P |
| Chain pickerel, Esox niger | P | P |
| Golden shiner, Notemigonus crysoleucas | P | P |
| Ironcolor shiner, Notropis chalybaeus . |  | P |
| Unidentified shiner, Notropis sp. | P |  |
| Creek chubsucker, Erimyzon oblongus | P | P |
| Yellow bullhead, Ictalurus natalis | P | P |
| Brown bullhead, Ictalurus nebulosus | P | P |
| Tadpole madtom, Noturus gyrinus | P | P |
| Swampfish, Chologaster cornuta . | P | P |
| Pirate perch, Aphredoderus sayanus | P | P |
| Lined topminnow, Fundulus lineolatus | P |  |
| Mosquitofish, Gambusia affinis . | P |  |
| Mud sunfish, Acantharchus pomotis | P | P |
| Flier, Centrarchus macropterus | P | P |
| Banded pigmy sunfish, Elassoma zonatum |  | P |
| Black banded sunfish, Enneacanthus chaetodon | P |  |
| Bluespotted sunfish, Enneacanthus gloriosus | P | P |
| Banded sunfish, Enneacanthus obesus ...... | P |  |
| Redbreast sunfish, Lepomis auritus |  | P |
| Pumpkinseed, Lepomis gibbosus | P | P |
| Warmouth, Lepomis gulosus | P | P |
| Bluegill, Lepomis macrochirus | P | P |
| Largemouth bass, Micropterus salmoides | P | P |
| Black crappie, Pomoxis nigromaculatus | P | P |
| Swamp darter, Etheostoma fusiforme | P |  |
| Sawcheek darter, Etheostoma serriferum |  | P |
| Yellow perch, Perca flavescens ......... |  | P |
|  | 26 | 25 |

the Cashie River near its confluence with the Roanoke River, is located in Bertie County. The Hoggard Mill Creek study area extended approximately 9.3 stream km downstream from the Bertie County SR 1301 bridge on Cucklemaker Swamp and the SR 1001 bridge on Flat Swamp (Fig. 1). The main stream channels of both streams were measured and divided into 0.4 kilometer study sections.

Both streams varied considerably in size within the study area. Main stream channels were generally 2 to 8 m wide and a few cm to 6 m deep.

Table 2. Population estimates of fishes collected from Duke Swamp, May through August 1972. $\mathrm{N}=$ number of each species per surface hectare; $\mathrm{CL}=$ $80 \%$ confidence limits; $\mathrm{B}=$ biomass in kg per surface hectare; $\% \mathrm{~N}=$ percent of total number; $\% \mathrm{~B}=$ percent of total biomass; ${ }^{*}=$ data not available or $<0.1$; and $\infty=$ infinite.

| Species | Section 1 |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | N | CL | B | \%N | \%B |
| Bowfin | 22 | (*-*) | 8.3 | . 3 | 4.3 |
| American eel | 121 | (62-m) | 1.7 | 1.8 | . 9 |
| Eastern mudminnow | 7 | (5-m) | . 1 | . 1 | . 1 |
| Redfin pickerel | 1871 | (1240-4549) | 65.5 | 28.2 | 33.6 |
| Chain pickerel. | 40 | (*-*) | 2.6 | . 6 | 1.3 |
| Golden shiner | 12 | (*-*) | . 1 | . 2 | . 1 |
| Creek chubsucker | 363 | (255-1003) | 13.1 | 5.5 | 6.7 |
| Yellow bullhead | 991 | (541-18688) | 35.6 | 14.9 | 18.2 |
| Brown bullhead | 99 | (72-m) | 4.8 | 1.5 | 2.5 |
| Tadpole madtom | 0 |  |  |  |  |
| Pirate perch | 1082 | (640-2031) | 6.5 | 16.3 | 3.3 |
| Mud sunfish | 109 | (54-m) | 4.5 | 1.6 | 2.3 |
| Flier | 1174 | (546- $)$ | 41.0 | 17.7 | 21.0 |
| Blackbanded sunfish | 136 | (72-m) | * | 2.1 |  |
| Bluespotted sunfish | 259 | (126-m) | 1.6 | 3.9 | . 8 |
| Banded sunfish | 0 |  |  |  |  |
| Pumpkinseed | 2 | (*-*) | * | . 0 |  |
| Warmouth | 79 | (42-m) | 7.1 | 1.2 | 3.6 |
| Bluegill . . . | 217 | (106-m) | 2.6 | 3.3 | 1.3 |
| Largemouth bass | 10 | (*-*) | * | . 2 |  |
| Black crappie | 10 | (*-*) | * | . 2 |  |
| Swamp darter | 2 | (*-*) | * | . 0 |  |
| Sawcheek darter | 22 | (12-m) | * | . 3 |  |
| TOTALS | 6630 |  | 195.1 |  |  |

The variation in volume of stream flow through a year had considerable influence on stream width due to the nearly uniform topography of the watersheds. Rises in stream level of approximately 1 m caused width increases of up to 0.8 km .

## Population Estimates

Four study sections were randomly selected in each stream for fish population sampling. Sampling was conducted during summer low water periods using a combination of capture methods in an attempt to reduce bias from gear selectivity. Sections were blocked off with nets, and cylindrical poultry-wire traps, gill nets, a seine and a backpack Smith Root Type V electrofishing unit were used for collecting fish.

Table 2. (Continued)

| Species | Section 5 |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | N | CL | B | \%N | \%B |
| Bowfin | 25 | (*-*) | 9.2 | . 1 | 1.0 |
| American eel | 546 | (309-10381) | 7.6 | 1.6 | . 8 |
| Eastern mudminnow | 1300 | (813-4653) | 11.7 | 3.9 | 1.2 |
| Redfin pickerel | 7050 | (4653-17238) | 246.6 | 20.9 | 25.8 |
| Chain pickerel. | 0 |  |  |  |  |
| Golden shiner | 670 | (321-m) | 6.1 | 2.0 | . 6 |
| Creek chubsucker | 11764 | (6217-224102) | 423.2 | 34.9 | 44.2 |
| Yellow bullhead | 4700 | (2150-m) | 169.0 | 13.9 | 17.7 |
| Brown bullhead | 502 | (250-m) | 24.5 | 1.5 | 2.6 |
| Tadpole madtom | 0 |  |  |  |  |
| Pirate perch | 5916 | (4465-9449) | 35.4 | 17.5 | 3.7 |
| Mud sunfish | 7 | (*-*) | * | . 0 |  |
| Flier | 546 | (358-3010) | 19.1 | 1.6 | 2.0 |
| Blackbanded sunfish | 7 | (*-*) | * | . 0 |  |
| Bluespotted sunfish | 242 | (119-m) | 1.5 | . 7 | . 2 |
| Banded sunfish | 0 |  |  |  |  |
| Pumpkinseed | 148 | (91-m) | * | . 4 |  |
| Warmouth | 0 |  |  |  |  |
| Bluegill | 247 | (141-m) | 2.9 | . 7 | . 3 |
| Largemouth bass | 7 | (*-*) | * | . 0 |  |
| Black crappie | 0 |  |  |  |  |
| Swamp darter ..... | 0 |  |  |  |  |
| Sawcheek darter | 57 | (40-m) | . 1 | . 2 | . 0 |
| TOTALS | 33734 |  | 956.9 |  |  |

The Petersen single census mark-recapture method (Ricker 1958) was used in estimating populations. Sampling was divided into a marking period and a censusing period. A week generally was required for sampling each study section and at least one night separated the two periods. During the marking period all fish captured in good condition and large enough to mark (generally $>75 \mathrm{~mm}$ ) were fin clipped and released. Fish too small to mark were counted and this count was considered a minimal population estimate. All fish (of the size marked) captured during censusing were inspected for marks. The same sampling effort was employed during the marking period and the censusing period.

An indication of fish biomass was obtained from the product of the numerical population estimates and the mean weight of a sample of fish (by species) collected from the study streams using the same collection techniques (Tarplee 1975). In cases where the number of individuals considered in obtaining the mean weight was small, data from 1973 rotenone samples (Pardue et al. 1975) were also used.

Table 2. (Continued)

| Species | Section 6 |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | N | CL | B | \%N | \%B |
| Bowfin | 12 | (*-*) | 4.6 | . 1 | 1.6 |
| American eel | 82 | (40-m) | 1.1 | . 8 | . 4 |
| Eastern mudminnow | 929 | (425-m) | 8.3 | 8.9 | 2.6 |
| Redfin pickerel | 3039 | (2078-6133) | 106.3 | 29.3 | 36.5 |
| Chain pickerel. | 27 | (12-m) | 1.8 | . 3 | . 6 |
| Golden shiner | 237 | (111-m) | 1.2 | 2.3 | . 4 |
| Creek chubsucker | 1391 | (1048-1969) | 50.0 | 13.4 | 17.2 |
| Yellow bullhead | 726 | (484-2046) | 26.1 | 7.0 | 9.0 |
| Brown bullhead | 178 | (109-3403) | 8.7 | 1.7 | 3.0 |
| Tadpole madtom | 2 |  | * | . 0 |  |
| Pirate perch | 1285 | (786-4623) | 7.7 | 12.4 | 2.6 |
| Mud sunfish | 35 | (20- $\infty$ ) | 1.5 | . 3 | . 5 |
| Flier | 1920 | (1018-36934) | 67.1 | 18.5 | 23.1 |
| Blackbanded sunfish | 0 |  |  |  |  |
| Bluespotted sunfish | 131 | ( $64-\infty$ ) | . 8 | 1.3 | . 3 |
| Banded sunfish | 0 |  |  |  |  |
| Pumpkinseed | 54 | ( $30-\infty$ ) | * | . 5 |  |
| Warmouth | 25 | (15-m) | 2.2 | . 2 | . 8 |
| Bluegill | 304 | (163-m) | 3.7 | 2.9 | 1.3 |
| Largemouth bass | 0 |  |  |  |  |
| Black crappie | 0 |  |  |  |  |
| Swamp darter | 0 |  |  |  |  |
| Sawcheek darter | 12 | (*-*) | * | . 1 |  |
| TOTALS | 10389 |  | 291.1 |  |  |

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The 27 species of fish collected from Duke Swamp and 24 species collected from Hoggard Mill Creek were typical of lowland blackwater streams (Table 1). Differences in the species lists can be largely attributed to those smaller species less susceptible to capture, and those represented by low numbers of individuals which may actually occur in both streams. Several additional species were reported from these areas by Pardue et al. (1975).

Population estimates of markable-size fish in the sampled sections of Duke Swamp and Hoggard Mill Creek are presented on a per hectare basis in Table 2 and 3 . The area of water considered was only that contained within the main stream channel and did not reflect increases in surface area which occurred when water levels rose above the main channel banks.

The Petersen method is a single census technique, so confidence limits

Table 2. (Continued)

| Species | Section 34 |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | N | CL | B | \%N | \%B |
| Bowfin | 74 | (54-m) | 27.6 | . 4 | 5.0 |
| American eel | 334 | (208- ${ }^{\text {( }}$ | 4.7 | 1.7 | . 9 |
| Eastern mudminnow | 801 | (408- $\infty$ ) | 7.2 | 4.0 | 1.3 |
| Redfin pickerel | 5960 | (5083-7440) | 208.5 | 29.6 | 38.1 |
| Chain pickerel. | 0 |  |  |  |  |
| Golden shiner | 667 | (566-927) | 6.1 | 3.3 | 1.1 |
| Creek chubsucker | 79 | (59-420) | 2.8 | . 4 | . 5 |
| Yellow bullhead | 3121 | (1433-m) | 112.2 | 15.5 | 20.5 |
| Brown bullhead | 1586 | (882-30500) | 77.7 | 7.9 | 14.2 |
| Tadpole madtom | 0 |  |  |  |  |
| Pirate perch | 4159 | (3425-5513) | 24.9 | 20.6 | 4.5 |
| Mud sunfish | 35 | (*-*) | 1.5 | . 2 | . 3 |
| Flier | 1952 | (1762-2271) | 68.3 | 9.7 | 12.5 |
| Blackbanded sunfish | 0 |  |  |  |  |
| Bluespotted sunfish | 326 | (158- $\infty$ ) | 1.9 | 1.6 | . 3 |
| Banded sunfish | 1001 | (549-18898) | * | 5.0 |  |
| Pumpkinseed | 17 | (*-*) | * | . 1 |  |
| Warmouth . | 49 | (37-m) | 4.4 | . 2 | . 8 |
| Bluegill | 0 |  |  |  |  |
| Largemouth bass | 0 |  |  |  |  |
| Black crappie | 0 |  |  |  |  |
| Swamp darter | 0 |  |  |  |  |
| Sawcheek darter | 0 |  |  |  |  |
| TOTALS | 20161 |  | 547.8 |  |  |

were estimated by considering R (recaptures) as a binomial and using tables of confidence limits of binomial proportions (Mainland et al. 1956). The 80 percent level of confidence was selected for use in examining these estimates, as variability is often high in field studies of fish and wildlife populations and an 80 percent confidence level is often adequate for ecological evaluation and management.
There was considerable variation in numbers of fish between the sampled sections of Duke Swamp, with estimates ranging from 6630 fish weighing 195.1 kg per surface hectare to 33,734 fish weighing 956.9 kg (Table 2). Redfin pickerel, Yellow bullhead, Pirate perch and American eel, the most abundant fishes collected (pooled estimates), made up 69.0 percent of the estimated total. Large differences existed among species in the variation in population estimates between study sections. For example, Creek chubsucker estimates varied considerably between sections while Redfin pickerel were abundant in all sections.

Table 2. (Continued)

| Species | Totals (Based on Pooled Data) |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | N | CL | B | \%N | \%B |
| Bowfin | 17 | (*-*) | 6.2 | . 1 | 1.8 |
| American eel | 1433 | (326-11937) | 20.1 | 11.3 | 5.9 |
| Eastern mudminnow | 1065 | (494-2911) | 9.6 | 8.4 | 2.8 |
| Redfin pickerel | 2933 | (2671-3487) | 102.7 | 23.0 | 30.4 |
| Chain pickerel. | 133 | (40-1334) | 8.5 | 1.0 | 2.5 |
| Golden shiner | 185 | (143-250) | 1.7 | 1.5 | . 5 |
| Creek chubsucker | 381 | (346-423) | 13.7 | 3.0 | 4.1 |
| Yellow bullhead | 2310 | (1574-5866) | 83.2 | 18.1 | 24.6 |
| Brown bullhead | 1035 | (376-3571) | 50.7 | 8.1 | 15.0 |
| Tadpole madtom | 2 | (*-*) | . 0 | . 0 | . 0 |
| Pirate perch | 2110 | (1762-2553) | 12.7 | 16.6 | 3.8 |
| Mud sunfish | 168 | (43-1542) | 6.9 | 1.3 | 2.0 |
| Flier | 554 | (484-640) | 19.4 | 4.4 | 5.7 |
| Blackbanded sunfish . | 15 | (*-*) | * | . 1 |  |
| Bluespotted sunfish | 49 | (*-*) | . 3 | . 4 | . 1 |
| Banded sunfish | 232 | (59-2009) | * | 1.8 |  |
| Pumpkinseed . | 17 | (*-*) | * | . 1 |  |
| Warmouth | 20 | (*-*) | 1.7 | . 2 | . 5 |
| Bluegill | 49 | (*-*) | . 6 | . 4 | . 2 |
| Largemouth bass | 5 | (*-*) | * | . 0 |  |
| Black crappie | 2 | (*-*) | * | . 0 |  |
| Swamp darter | 2 | (*-*) | * | . 0 |  |
| Sawcheek darter... | 12 | (*-*) | . 0 | . 1 |  |
| TOTALS | 12729 |  | 338.0 |  |  |

Pirate perch, American eel, Yellow bullhead and Redfin pickerel were the most numerous species in Hoggard Mill Creek, making up 79.2 percent (pooled estimate) of the total (Table 3). Total estimates ranged from 17,656 to 103,891 fish per surface hectare and biomass estimates ranged from 218.8 kg to 1606.9 kg per surface hectare among the four sections sampled. The Pirate perch was the only species abundant in all sections. As in Duke Swamp there was considerable variation in the number of individuals of several species between study sections. Section 2, the section with the greatest fish density, primarily contained juvenile American eels, while Section 21 had a density of only 74 eels per surface hectare.

In Duke Swamp 70 percent of the estimated total fish biomass was made up of Redfin pickerel, Yellow bullhead and Brown bullhead. Most of the additional 30 percent was composed of American eel, Flier, Pirate Perch and Creek chubsucker. Six species-Yellow bullhead, Redfin pickerel, American eel, Pirate perch, Flier and Mud sunfish-composed

Table 3. Population estimates of fishes collected from Hoggard Mill Creek, May through August 1972. $\mathrm{N}=$ number of each species per surface hectare; $\mathrm{CL}=80 \%$ confidence limits; $\mathrm{B}=$ biomass in kg per surface hectare; $\% \mathrm{~N}$ $=$ percent of total number; $\%$ B = percent of total biomass; * = data not available or $\langle 0.1$; and $\infty=$ infinite.

| Species | Section 19 |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | N | CL | B | \%N | \%B |
| Bowfin | 10 | (7-m) | 3.7 | . 0 | 1.7 |
| American eel | 2780 | (1619-15590) | 38.9 | 13.2 | 17.8 |
| Eastern mudminnow | 22 | (10-m) | . 2 | . 1 | . 1 |
| Redfin pickerel | 526 | (314-2936) | 18.4 | 2.5 | 8.4 |
| Chain pickerel. | 2 | (*-*) | . 1 | . 0 | . 0 |
| Golden shiner | 32 | (20-m) | . 2 | . 2 | . 1 |
| Creek chubsucker | 190 | (131-670) | 6.8 | . 9 | 3.1 |
| Yellow bullhead | 818 | (430-15750) | 29.4 | 3.9 | 13.4 |
| Brown bullhead | 2 | (*-*) | . 0 | . 0 | . 0 |
| Tadpole madtom | 1426 | (660-m) | 7.2 | 6.8 | 3.3 |
| Pirate perch | 12792 | (9953-19217) | 76.6 | 60.7 | 35.0 |
| Mud sunfish | 314 | (151-m) | 12.9 | 1.5 | 5.9 |
| Flier | 128 | (67-m) | 4.5 | . 6 | 2.1 |
| Bluespotted sunfish | 944 | (442-m) | 5.6 | 4.5 | 2.6 |
| Redbreast sunfish | 2 | (*-*) | * | . 0 |  |
| Pumpkinseed... | 7 | (*-*) | * | . 0 |  |
| Warmouth | 146 | (106-m) | 13.0 | . 7 | 5.9 |
| Bluegill ... | 5 | (*-*) | 1 | . 0 | . 0 |
| Black crappie | 5 | (*-*) | * | . 0 |  |
| Sawcheek darter | 934 | (423-m) | 1.2 | 4.4 | . 5 |
| Yellow perch ... | 0 |  | . 0 | . 0 | . 0 |
| TOTALS | 21083 |  | 218.8 |  |  |

92 percent of the estimated fish biomass in Hoggard Mill Creek. This comparison indicates that most of the biomass in both these streams is made up of species desired by fisherman.

The great variation in population estimates among the sections and between the streams sampled is probably primarily due to habitat difference. Some variation, however, may be due to changes in sampling gear efficiency in different stream types. The larger numbers of Pirate perch and American eel in Hoggard Mill creek may be related to the greater amount of aquatic vegetation in that stream. Section 2 of Hoggard Mill Creek contained dense beds of aquatic vegetation and a soft, muddy substrate. Densities of juvenile American eel and Pirate perch were much greater there than in any other sampling area in either stream.

In the larger sections of streams studied (Section 1 in Duke Swamp and part of Section 19 in Hoggard Mill Creek) some of the sampling gear, such

Table 3. (Continued)

| Species | Section 8 |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | N | CL | B | \%N | \%B |
| Bowfin | 0 |  | . 0 | . 0 | . 0 |
| American eel | 1836 | (1181-6541) | 25.2 | 5.8 | 3.8 |
| Eastern mudminnow | 996 | (492-m) | 9.0 | 3.2 | 1.4 |
| Redfin pickerel | 7144 | (6061-9343) | 249.9 | 22.6 | 37.6 |
| Chain pickerel | 5 | (*-*) | . 3 | . 0 | . 0 |
| Golden shiner | 133 | (*-*) | 1.0 | . 4 | . 2 |
| Creek chubsucker | 363 | (232-2009) | 13.1 | 1.2 | 2.0 |
| Yellow bullhead | 4223 | (2644-15068) | 126.9 | 13.4 | 19.1 |
| Brown bullhead | 0 |  | . 0 | . 0 | . 0 |
| Tadpole madtom | 1166 | (549-m) | 5.8 | 3.7 | . 9 |
| Pirate perch | 9298 | (7309-14435) | 55.7 | 29.5 | 8.4 |
| Mud sunfish | 1866 | (1223-5256) | 78.9 | 5.9 | 11.9 |
| Flier | 2291 | (1554-5542) | 79.8 | 7.3 | 12.0 |
| Bluespotted sunfish | 2098 | (951-m) | 12.6 | 6.7 | 1.9 |
| Redbreast sunfish | 5 | (*-*) | * | . 0 |  |
| Pumpkinseed | 0 |  |  | . 0 |  |
| Warmouth | 57 | (*-*) | 5.0 | . 2 | . 8 |
| Bluegill ... | 0 |  | . 0 | . 0 | . 0 |
| Black crappie | 0 |  |  | . 0 |  |
| Sawcheek darter | 44 | (27-m) | . 1 | . 1 | . 0 |
| Yellow perch . . . . . | 22 | (*-*) | . 9 | . 1 | . 1 |
| TOTALS | 31547 |  | 664.2 |  |  |

as the backpack electrofishing unit, became less effective and resulted in capture of fewer individuals and wider confidence limits.

This variation in fish population with habitat distribution appears to be a characteristic of these swamp systems. In this study we attempted to estimate the fish populations in the study area by using randomly chosen, relatively large sampling areas. The results provide a list of species found in these swamp streams, estimates of their abundance, and, perhaps most important, an indication of the variation found among areas within streams as well as between streams.

The number of fish collected that were too small to mark includes both species with a small adult size and juvenile fishes. These fish are included in the area species list (Table 1) and their numbers were reported by Tarplee (1975). Largest differences occurring between the two streams were in Swampfish and Ironcolor shiner, which were much more abundant in Hoggard Mill Creek than in Duke Swamp.

The estimates of fish biomass in both creeks are slightly higher than

Table 3. (Continued)

| Species | Section 2 |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | N | CL | B | \%N | \%B |
| Bowfin |  |  | . 0 |  |  |
| American eel | 37265 | (23754-106347) | 35.9 | 32.4 |  |
| Eastern mudminnow | 18453 | (8209- $\infty$ ) | 165.8 | 17.8 | 10.3 |
| Redfin pickerel | 11080 | (6578-62012) | 387.5 | 10.7 | 24.1 |
| Chain pickerel. | 0 |  | . 0 | . 0 | . 0 |
| Golden shiner | 30 | (17-m) | . 2 | . 0 |  |
| Creek chubsucker | 0 |  |  | . 0 |  |
| Yellow bullhead | 3877 | (2323-21663) | 139.1 | 3.7 | 8.7 |
| Brown bullhead | 0 |  | . 0 | . 0 | . 0 |
| Tadpole madtom | 173 | (109-3274) | . 9 | . 2 | . 1 |
| Pirate perch | 23951 | (17880-37189) | 143.5 | 23.1 | 8.9 |
| Mud sunfish | 536 | (324-10232) | 22.0 | . 5 | 1.4 |
| Flier | 2192 | (1171-41752) | 188.8 | 2.1 | 11.7 |
| Bluespotted sunfish | 6304 | (2891-m) | 37.8 | 6.1 | 2.4 |
| Redbreast sunfish | 0 |  |  | . 0 |  |
| Pumpkinseed | 0 |  |  | . 0 |  |
| Warmouth | 0 |  | . 0 | . 0 | . 0 |
| Bluegill | 0 |  | . 0 | . 0 | . 0 |
| Black crappie | 0 |  |  | . 0 |  |
| Sawcheek darter | 30 | (17-m) | . 0 | . 0 | . 0 |
| Yellow perch | 0 |  |  | . 0 |  |
| TOTALS | 103891 |  | 1606.9 |  |  |

values reported for Louisiana backwater areas and rivers by Lantz (1970a, b), and within the range of values reported for the same Louisiana backwater area by Lambou (1959). These biomass estimates are also slightly higher on the average than fish populations reported from North Carolina swamp streams by Bayless and Smith (1963) and Tarplee et al. (1971), although most values in this study were within the range reported in the literature.

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Table 3. (Continued)

| Species | Section 21 |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | N | CL | B | \%N | \%B |
| Bowfin . | 0 |  |  |  |  |
| American eel | 74 | (44-m) | 1.0 | . 4 | . 3 |
| Eastern mudminnow | 3902 | (3158-5389) | 35.1 | 22.1 | 10.8 |
| Redfin pickerel | 5864 | (4979-7386) | 205.1 | 33.2 | 63.1 |
| Chain pickerel | 0 |  | . 0 | . 0 | . 0 |
| Golden shiner | 57 | (*-*) | . 4 | . 3 | . 1 |
| Creek chubsucker | 30 | (*-*) | 1.1 | . 2 | . 3 |
| Yellow bullhead | 1035 | (591-m) | 37.2 | 5.9 | 11.4 |
| Brown bullhead | 0 |  | . 0 | . 0 | . 0 |
| Tadpole madtom | 0 |  | . 0 | . 0 | . 0 |
| Pirate perch | 6370 | (4675-8634) | 38.1 | 36.1 | 11.7 |
| Mud sunfish | 74 | (59-1404) | 3.0 | . 4 | . 9 |
| Flier | 74 | (40-m) | 2.6 | . 4 | . 8 |
| Bluespotted sunfish | 166 | (119-m) | 1.0 | . 9 | . 3 |
| Redbreast sunfish | 0 |  |  | . 0 |  |
| Pumpkinseed | 0 |  |  | . 0 |  |
| Warmouth | 5 | (*-*) | . 4 | . 0 | . 1 |
| Bluegill | 0 |  |  | . 0 | . 0 |
| Black crappie | 0 |  |  | . 0 |  |
| Sawcheek darter | 5 | (*-*) | . 0 | . 0 | . 0 |
| Yellow perch ..... | 0 |  |  | . 0 | . 0 |
| TOTALS | 17656 |  | 325.0 |  |  |

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Table 3. (Continued)

| Species | Totals (Based on Pooled Data) |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | N | CL | B | \% N | \%B |
| Bowfin | 2 | (*-*) | 1.3 | . 0 | . 2 |
| American eel | 8569 | (5409-13838) | 120.0 | 23.5 | 19.5 |
| Eastern mudminnow | 1940 | (1483-2607) | 17.5 | 5.3 | 2.8 |
| Redfin pickerel | 3973 | (3482-4571) | 139.1 | 10.9 | 22.6 |
| Chain pickerel | 2 | (*-*) | . 1 | . 0 | . 0 |
| Golden shiner | 133 | (59-492) | 1.2 | . 4 | . 2 |
| Creek chubsucker | 222 | (136-408) | 8.0 | . 6 | 1.3 |
| Yellow bullhead | 4265 | (2340-761) | 153.5 | 11.7 | 24.9 |
| Brown bullhead | 2 | (*-*) | . 1 | . 0 | . 0 |
| Tadpole madtom | 2797 | (623-2238) | 14.0 | 7.7 | 2.3 |
| Pirate perch . . . . | 12071 | (10316-14201) | 72.4 | 33.1 | 11.8 |
| Mud sunfish | 907 | (521-1658) | 37.1 | 2.5 | 6.0 |
| Flier | 1332 | (825-2656) | 46.6 | 3.6 | 7.6 |
| Bluespotted sunfish | 173 | (*-*) | 1.0 | . 5 | . 2 |
| Redbreast sunfish | 2 | (*-*) | * | . 0 |  |
| Pumpkinseed. | 5 | (2-44) | * | . 0 |  |
| Warmouth . | 47 | (32-89) | 4.1 | . 1 | . 7 |
| Bluegill | 2 | (*-*) | . 0 | . 0 | . 0 |
| Black crappie | 2 | (*-*) | * | . 0 |  |
| Sawcheek darter | 59 | (*-*) | . 1 | . 2 | . 0 |
| Yellow perch .. | 2 | (*-*) | . 1 | . 1 | . 0 |
| TOTALS | 36507 |  | 616.1 |  |  |

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